



28 March 2019

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 63326  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Reference: F-2019-00348

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to your 5 November 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following records: **copies of the Personal History Vignettes referred to in CIA-RDP90B01370R001101510048-1, CIA-RDP89-00066R000800230001-1 and CIA-RDP86B00338R000300440007-6. Note that the HPSCI requested their declassification over 30 years ago.** We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended.

We completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located one document, consisting of 22 pages, which we can release in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). A copy of the document and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(l) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help

resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at:

703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,



Riggs Monfort  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

## Explanation of Exemptions

### **Freedom of Information Act:**

- (b)(1) exempts from disclosure information currently and properly classified, pursuant to an Executive Order;
- (b)(2) exempts from disclosure information which pertains solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Agency;
- (b)(3) exempts from disclosure information that another federal statute protects, provided that the other federal statute either requires that the matters be withheld, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The (b)(3) statutes upon which the CIA relies include, but are not limited to, the CIA Act of 1949;
- (b)(4) exempts from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person and that is privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) exempts from disclosure inter-and intra-agency memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) exempts from disclosure information from personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- (b)(7) exempts from disclosure information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that the production of the information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source or, in the case of information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger any individual's life or physical safety;
- (b)(8) exempts from disclosure information contained in reports or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use of an agency responsible for regulating or supervising financial institutions; and
- (b)(9) exempts from disclosure geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

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William E. Colby  
330 19th STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036  
(202) 828-0100

March 5, 1982

The Honorable Edward Boland  
Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In my letter of December 23, 1982, I requested that the Committee consider amending the special CIA retirement system to recognize the special contributions CIA spouses make to the CIA mission. The CIA spouses and former spouses with whom I have been associated in this effort have collected several additional statements to those submitted in that letter showing the manner in which such spouses earn this protection.

The amendment we request would provide that retirement rights vest in a spouse serving during the qualifying service of her partner for CIARDS retirement. As in the last submission, I have added to the full accounts submitted by the spouses, three pages of excerpts which I believe highlight the rationale and justice for this request. As indicated in my last letter, I am aware of the identities of the individuals submitting these materials and they are prepared to be interviewed in order to elucidate any questions the Committee may have with respect to this matter. Their names have been withheld in this submission for reasons of privacy and security, and the entire package has been submitted to you through the Central Intelligence Agency for classification of such portions the agency believes should be so handled.

In hopes that the Committee will proceed along the lines requested in this submission, I remain at your disposal for any further information or discussion you or your staff may wish on the matter.

Sincerely,



W.E. Colby

Enclosures

(b)(3)

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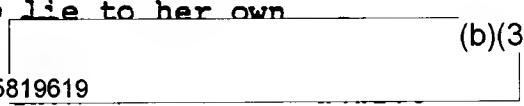
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- Living under the same conditions and strains as the other members of the U.S. Mission, yet also living a "secret life", the successes and frustrations of which can never be shared, even in the privacy of the home for fear of being monitored or compromised. 

- Knowing that my husband is a terrorist target and that I and the children are hostage or victim of that same threat.

- Spending many weeks and months arranging chance encounters with the wife of a target official, winning her confidence, playing on her fears and venality, using her to get to her rebel husband...all in another language.

- Looking on PTA meetings, church socials, the Girl Scouts, a picnic, any encounter as a chance to meet and effect new relationships.

5 "Irrespective of life overseas, I wonder if you have considered the sort of social withdrawal which the veil of silence imposes even on simple things. For example, the wife cannot talk to her friends about her husband's daily life, his 'office' friends, his successes, his promotion up the ladder--all the ordinary things which other wives talk about. In the long run it may be that the husband has been very successful in his work yet goes into retirement appearing to the outside world to be a failure or at best to have achieved mediocrity. The wife has to bear with all this without even having the solace of job satisfaction. There is, too, the likelihood that at some stage she will have to lie to her own children about her husband's activities." 

(b)(3)

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4. It was only after my husband had retired from the Agency and took a position in a private school that I realized how different my role had become.

His work now is totally separated from his home life. I make little or no contribution to it. He gets whatever support he needs from his colleagues.

In contrast, our entire life during his 30-year Agency career was a family one. The children and I were a needed part of his working life, especially overseas. His friends were ours, his cohorts a part of our life.

4. If we had remained in one place throughout our married life, the energies or fulfillment I found in supporting my husband's career would undoubtedly have been channeled into some personal outlet which would have made me self-supporting.

The rewards of a life such as ours have been enormous. But the effort it took to produce them was not negligible. And it was shared by both husband and wife.

6. As a CIA wife, with special clearances and language capabilities, I was called upon to help in certain operations, or to work at the station. I did this willingly and often enjoyed it thoroughly. Remuneration for my services was negligible when I was entitled to be paid. I usually worked without pay.

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Having been a wife in the agency for 25 years has indeed been a challenge. We were not prepared in any way, by briefings or orientations for the situations we would encounter in this life style. But many of us have met that challenge for years and felt it an honor to serve our country in the capacity we had placed before us. But many marriages have ended on the downside due to these pressures and I feel that our wives should be given the same benefits as other foreign service wives who are covered by the Foreign Service Act if there is a divorce.

9 There is, we may say fairly, no "statute of limitations" on the benefits accruing to this nation from the many years of loyal service given by CIA wives who willingly put themselves in situations of possible danger while assisting their husbands in carrying out essential operational missions.

Let us not allow these dedicated people to be excluded from the benefits that should be theirs from a grateful country.

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From the moment my husband's first branch chief invited him into his office to discuss our first overseas assignment and informed him that he had "carefully gone over his file and since he had no family and was not planning to be married", the office had decided to send him to an area of guerrilla warfare in a strife filled Asian country. After clarifying the family situation, it was decided to send all of us to a neighboring but equally difficult "hardship post". And even though a woman counsellor in the cover organization to which we were assigned cryptically remarked that we would never complete the first tour, we embraced our career with such enthusiasm that we were to remain overseas for 16 of our first 20 years of marriage. Our first tour encompassed three countries, included two evacuations under difficult circumstances, and lasted four years without home-leave. Early in that first tour, we discovered that we both had a latent pioneer spirit which delighted in plunging into the danger, unfamiliar country and strange surroundings associated with hardship posts. We also discovered that we really enjoy learning languages and communicating in those languages with the people with whom we are living and working. We learned to appreciate and cherish what we had as Americans and devoted ourselves to protecting those values. We both have the infinite patience necessary for the ceaseless meeting, sifting through and assessing of people who may be of interest to our work. Although only one of us was gainfully employed, it was an employment which drew on both of us totally, and eventually involved the children. As the unemployed member of the team, my chief function was to provide support and

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maintain cover. In these endeavors, countless hours were spent helping others practice their English and helping me practice another language. In some instances, I learned to value the non-verbal communication provided by the Sears catalogue. A myriad of ladies of many nationalities have exclaimed over our beautiful blond, blue-eyed children, stroking their fair hair and touching their rosy cheeks. They have expressed interest in why we have so many or why we have so few. They are surprised that we have chosen to come so far away from the wonderful United States. They have been curious about our clothes, our diet, the unusual things we like to buy and the terrible prices we pay for everything. These ladies have made us aware of how much we have and how very fortunate we are. We have shared many cups of tea and prepared many "real American dinners". We have, in turn, been feted in strange settings at tables laden with, to our palate, bizarre delicacies. We have grown through these encounters but they have required a tremendous amount of time, imagination, effort, tact, patience and understanding. We have shopped for them while out of the country, we have shopped for special things at the PX and commissary, ordered items from the United States and provided medication. We have also performed similar functions for visiting American officials - taking them sightseeing, shopping, mailing their packages, providing proper dinners and entertainment.

We have been more fortunate than many regarding the cover aspect of our lives as our cover has always been the same and it has been easy to "live our cover". Living our cover has meant being a member of the American Women's Club, the International Women's Club and any other groups or classes which would

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either enhance our cover or provide a good meeting place for people of other nationalities. For my husband, living our cover sometimes meant that he was busy with the cover job during the day and busy with his Agency work at night. A situation of that sort is difficult for all concerned. In some countries the evening activities were for both husband and wife while in other locations the evenings were only for the men.

Three of our four children were born abroad and we were so successful in living our cover that none of them suspected that we were employed by any other than our cover until we told each of them the truth when he or she reached the age of 15. One of them was so shocked that he thought we worked for the KGB. These children went to kindergarten in war zones, watched riots from their bedroom windows, huddled in terror during severe typhoons, lived under many flags, made new sets of friends every two to three years and because America was a far-off dream rather than every day reality, became patriots - red, white and blue. One of them also contracted amoebic dysentery, three of them contracted viral meningitis which resulted in a seizure disorder for one and one had a highly infectious dermatosis which required more than a year to cure.

Please consider:

- Living under the same conditions and strains as the other members of the U.S. Mission, yet also living a "secret life", the successes and frustrations of which can never be shared, even in the privacy of the home for fear of being monitored or compromised.

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- Making sure the baby slept soundly while your husband and his contact talked in hushed voices in the nursery.
- Looking on every dinner, cocktail party and reception as an opportunity to make new contacts, draw assessments, compare notes; having the same conversation over and over, the same food over and over, smiling even though you would rather be doing something else in another location, setting up introductions for your husband, while other people simply enjoyed themselves.
- Knowing that my husband is a terrorist target and that I and the children are hostage or victim of that same threat.
- Spending many weeks and months arranging chance encounters with the wife of a target official, winning her confidence, playing on her fears and venality, using her to get to her rebel husband...all in another language.
- Looking on PTA meetings, church socials, the Girl Scouts, a picnic, any encounter as a chance to meet and effect new relationships.

Looking over this brief resume, I am amazed at the good fortune we have shared and can easily understand the reasons that so many marriages fail under these extremely trying conditions.

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2.

There are many voluntary contributions made by a Agency wife to assist husbands( as employees) to carry out their mission effectively, whether at home in U.S. or [REDACTED]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Many of these contributions by the wives are in response to complex challenges presented by her husbands job. The problems encountered and hardships, disruptions and unusual conditions of our service to our country present many challenges to wives.

The skills she must use to help her husband and family make this transition and still maintain mental and physically safe environment for her husband and children- are often complex and take a great deal of ingenuity and caring on her part.

Some of the capabilities needed are mentioned below. Some are particular to Communications men and their families and others are in general to foreign service wives and/ or Agency wives.

1. Death or serious illness of close family member while stationed overseas.

Not only are children often left in a foreign country while their mother returns to US, but she must provide supplementary care, physically and emotional - for her children in a very short time. <sup>of husband family - support for children while father goes.</sup>

She is also required to face grieving process alone due to regulations that only member by blood is allowed to return to US. <sup>and that only one time</sup>

2. Unhealthful Post and inadequate medical facilities available .

The wife and mother is in need of being well versed in minor and often, major- medical knowledge or often faces loss or serious damage health-wise, to herself, husband or children at Post

In my case I experienced three such tragic situations and only the fact that I am an R.N. and could keep my mental faculties stable-- aided us in facing these situations.

3. As [REDACTED] wife

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Due to being in this position, a wife is required to be and do many things.

a. assisting families and wives and children to adjust to cultural shock, loneliness and all things pertaining to [REDACTED] families. <sup>(b)(1)</sup>

b. As communicators or [REDACTED] wives, this doubly difficult as our husbands are not [REDACTED] and we are often over-looked or ignored <sup>(b)(1)</sup> <sup>(b)(3)</sup> socially and husbands are in their job. Easing this transition and helping the wives reach out and supporting our husband in discouraging times is a full time job!

c. I have learned from lonely, rough experience of my own and our children - many things to do to aide in this transition.

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4.  -- Commo and  mer often go on extensive trips, whether in US or <sup>(b)(1)</sup> <sub>(b)(3)</sub> overseas Postings.

Maintaining a healthy and safe atmosphere in our home entails a many faceted woman! Many wives and children are separated for months at a time and the full responsibility for minimizing the impact of this falls on the wife.

5. Cover -- getting enough informations to maintain your husbands cover is often difficult. This burden among social gatherings, children, newcomers and car-pools, often falls heavily on the wife's ingenuity!

6. Moving - packing out to move within the US is traumatic enough, but for overseas it is even more complicated. Often the wife must handle it herself if husband leaves for post early and wife and children remain behind to complete school year.

Often the wife must travel alone due to job circumstances. In and from a foreign country-- this can require great patience and certainly a stable mental health.

#### 7. Death of an Employee overseas -

If this occurs to a wife as dependent, it can be especially difficult. I personally aided a friends wife and her children in this situation overseas and then later tried to assist her in US. <sup>in the Agency</sup> this is most difficult.

#### 8. Entertaining

Requirements for Communications wives and their employee husbands are not as taxing as other sections. However, there are still necessary times of entertainment involved with your husbands job and also for purely social reasons overseas in order to combat loneliness.

#### 9. Unusual stresses faced by Commo and wives

They do not have  in foreign countries and their job often <sup>(b)(1)</sup> <sup>(b)(3)</sup> requires the husband to expose himself in certain situations <sup>(b)(3)</sup>

Communications wives always live with the fact that if there is political trouble in the country and families are evacuated-- that their husbands and the Marines are the ones to stay when all else have left.

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10. Isolated Posts- There are many isolated posts overseas- particularly for communicators. These pose particular problems to be handled. Often there are literally no activities for either children or a spouse of the employee. The employee keeps busy at work and the wife and children have little to do. Some of these areas require having a servant for security reasons due to stealing in the country. Thus, even the homemaker role is not available to the wife. This type of post tends to show increase of alcoholism on part of both partners and emotional problems for the children and definitely more marital discord.

11. Career- in almost every case where a wife has an education and career before joining her husband in foreign service- she loses the opportunity to work and/or further her education. If divorce occurs, she is left with a difficult time re-entering her field. If the wife was married young and had no opportunity to get an education- she is even more handicapped when she is forced to support herself and children at time of divorce or death of spouse.

12. Terrorism and national acts of violence - this is a hazard long faced in foreign lands, but until recently not often realized. In our case we were caught in two such incidents within one year overseas. Separation from the spouse during or after these incidents prove a physical and emotional challenge that wives in the US very rarely face. The emotional aftermath often leads to divorce or marital and/or emotional problems within the family.

In our husbands jobs, foreign attack and/or recruitment is always a threat and the contribution in these situations of the wife is usually the prime means of continuing emotional and physical well being of the family.

Having been a wife in the agency for 25 years has indeed been a challenge. We were not prepared in any way by briefings or orientations for the situations we could encounter in this life style. But many of us have met that challenge for years and felt it an honor to serve our country in the capacity we had placed before us. But many marriages have fallen by the wayside due to these pressures and I feel that our wives should be given the same benefits as other foreign service wives who are covered by the Foreign Service Act if there is a divorce.

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3.

## Case History

The young man and young woman met during the last days of WW II when both were abroad in the service of US. He had just arrived in the foreign country and was still in the United States Army as an NCO assigned to US. She had been in the country for a year having been assigned there because of her linguistic ability in the language of the country and a background in the history of the country. She had a Master of Arts degree ~~from college~~ and a considerably higher grade in US than he had.

Upon return to US in Wash. D.C., the couple were married. They both worked in Hdqts. for two years ~~and~~, aided and supported by her, he ~~obtained~~ an excellent post abroad. She was fluent in the language of the country to which he was assigned. She was forced to retire because her grade was too high to serve in the same station as her husband, the ruling of that time. While serving in this post, she was rehired as a staff employee and worked for three of the four years they were at the post.

Returning to Hdqts. she continued to work and was assigned to head a small section. Once again he sought and was given a foreign assignment. Again she could not retain her staff status and was made a contract employee. The country to which he was assigned was also a country in the language of which she was fluent and could be very helpful in her husband's work as well as performing her work as a ~~xxxxxx~~ contract employee. This tour of foreign service was five years..

At Hdqts. again she resumed her staff status and was assigned as deputy chief of a section composed of 60 persons. The Hdqts. assignment lasted two and a half years at which time the husband again accepted a foreign posting. The wife again was switched from staff employee to a contract. At the time this occurred the wife had a GS-14, step 3, rating and was ~~in~~ in line for a GS-15 promotion. The ~~xxxx~~ language of the country to which the husband was assigned was also a language in which the wife was fluent. The tour lasted four years during which the wife retired at the husband's request.

Upon return to the United States the wife obtained a contract as an independent contractor. A subsequent divorce occurred and the wife is currently receiving a much smaller annuity than she would have ~~had~~ had, <sup>she has</sup> had continuous service. It should be noted that the husband did not have a college education nor the linguistic qualifications

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It was only after my husband had retired from the Agency and took a position in a private school that I realized how different my role had become.

His work now is totally separated from his home life. I make little or no contribution to it. He gets whatever support he needs from his colleagues.

In contrast, our entire life during his 30-year Agency career was a family one. The children and I were a needed part of his working life, especially overseas. His friends were ours, his cohorts a part of our life. I supplied a clean, healthy, moderately smooth running home (not easy) in two posts covering nine years in [redacted] Such support was vital to keeping him operating in a country where keeping physically healthy and mentally upbeat was a constant challenge. Three years in [redacted] were similarly effortfull. (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3)

Our two posts in [redacted] were more comfortable and less demanding of me. But even here, I provided settings for the entertaining necessary to establish and maintain his contacts. In addition, I shared the responsibility for maintaining morale among his staff. (b)(1) (b)(3)

When we married, my husband and I had similar jobs in a demanding bureau of the top wire service agency in the country. In all fairness, I must say that I gave mine up willingly to bear and rear our children. The women's movement started too late to convince me that both were possible.

I channelled my experience and talents into volunteer work for local charities in the countries in which we were posted. On our return after ten years overseas, I did pick up a second career in public relations but left a fulfilling position for another move overseas. Given the choice (our generation didn't

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think it had one), I would have chosen the two years in [redacted] (b)(1)  
They were a valuable experience. (b)(3)

However, for a wife who needed to support herself, this would have been a costly decision.

If we had remained in one place throughout our married life, the energies or fulfillment I found in supporting my husband's career would undoubtedly have been channeled into some personal outlet which would have made me self-supporting.

The rewards of a life such as ours have been enormous. But the effort it took to produce them was not negligible. And it was shared by both husband and wife.

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A career covert officer writes of hardships for dependents "that seem to me as important as any," as follows:

"I am thinking of the pressure on a wife living overseas who knows that she and her children may be the subject of hostile surveillance, either physical or electronic. It is not necessarily only the husband in that situation.

"Irrespective of life overseas, I wonder if you have considered the sort of social withdrawal which the veil of silence imposes even on simple things. For example, the wife cannot talk to her friends about her husband's daily life, his 'office' friends, his successes, his promotion up the ladder--all the ordinary things which other wives talk about. In the long run it may be that the husband has been very successful in his work yet goes into retirement appearing to the outside world to be a failure or at best to have achieved mediocrity. The wife has to bear with all this without even having the solace of job satisfaction. There is, too, the likelihood that at some stage she will have to lie to her own children about her husband's activities."

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My career as an assistant public affairs officer of the Regional Office of the World Health Organization in [redacted] [redacted] lasted six months. I had to hand in my resignation when I married an officer of the CIA who was then under cover, as a [redacted] [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

Since I belong to a generation of wives who believe in the importance of sharing their husbands' unique profession, I willingly gave up this promising position to follow my husband in his assignments around the world. I have always been convinced - and remain convinced - that service overseas, whether in the Foreign Service or the Central Intelligence Agency, means service for both husband and wife.

My husband's whole career with the Agency was spent [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[redacted] On the one hand, I had to live my cover, [redacted] [redacted] (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[redacted] On the other, I had to help take care of our own people in the Station, particularly of those who were [redacted] (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[redacted] and, as a result, felt especially isolated and lonely. "

As a CIA wife, with special clearances and language capabilities, I was called upon to help in certain operations, or to work at the [redacted] (b)(1)  
(b)(3) Station. I did this willingly and often enjoyed it thoroughly. Remuneration for my services was negligible when I was entitled to be paid. I usually worked without pay.

I shared my husband's CIA career for 13 years. We served together overseas and in Washington from 1959 to 1972, in various posts in the Middle East, in [redacted] and in Europe. This service involved [redacted] (b)(1)  
(b)(3) uprooting ourselves and our three children every two or three years and adjustment to a new [redacted] to new customs.

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Approved for Release: 2019/03/25 C05819619.

to new friend. It involved separations, with the knowledge that my husband's life was perhaps at the mercy of a volatile crowd. It involved evacuations, with all our belongings left behind.

It is difficult to describe the countless and immeasurable ways by which I helped my husband do a better job by relieving him of all the responsibilities of establishing a household in a different country every few years. I feel that my efforts can only be understood by those who, like me, gave up the safety and comforts of life at home for the rewarding and exciting but also difficult challenge of overseas living.

My husband collected intelligence and ran operations for the CIA but he also worked at his cover job [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) [redacted] [redacted] He had two jobs, with long [redacted] (b)(1), (b)(3) after working hours meetings with agents, as well as receptions and dinners to attend. He had no time to devote to his family. I had the total responsibility of running households, preparing moves, packing, selecting schools, nursing sick children in often primitive surroundings. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

In a Middle East country, our two-year old son had to have a series of rabies shots - which were only given at the local clinic after playing with a friend's dog that later developed rabies. At age three, that same son had to be hospitalized with a serious case of food poisoning. I was privileged in that I could generally communicate in the country's language with local doctors and nurses. Not all Agency or Foreign Service wives have language capabilities. I can imagine their anguish in making themselves understood under such trying circumstances or in attempting to understand the instructions of a doctor with little or no English.

I thoroughly enjoyed my service overseas. I believed in what we were doing as a Station and as a husband and wife team. I believed that service to our country was important enough to supersede a career of my own, despite the inevitable separations, the difficult periods of adjustment, the many instances of anguish and frustration.

It is because my career as an Agency wife overseas has been such a satisfying one, because my husband made sure that, at his death, I would be provided for, that I feel outrage at what has happened and is happening to some of our Agency wives. Like me, they faithfully served their country and the Agency for most of their life, under difficult circumstances and sometimes in dangerous posts. It is a scandal that these women, (some of whom are in bad health as a result of living in unhealthful climates with poor medical facilities) now have to face old age with no means of survival, no medical insurance, and no professional qualifications through no fault of their own.

The CIA wife usually has a harder time overseas than the Foreign Service wife because of the nature of her husband's work and because of the dangerous assignments that her husband often has to undertake. Her important participation to [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) the Station's life must be officially acknowledged by extending to her the same privileges extended to the Foreign Service wife. She must not have to depend on the whim of a husband. She must receive what is hers by right as compensation for her work and her sacrifices.

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Of the almost 30 years my husband worked for the CIA we spent all but six years overseas, mostly on three to four year assignments. As a result I naturally became pretty adept at moving, househunting, setting up a new home, making the proper moves towards new colleagues, new neighbors etc i.e. in order to become a functioning and accepted part of the community I found myself in. All of which needed to be done in the minimum amount of time or else we would have had to start all over before we could have reaped the benefits of these efforts. There were times when we were fortunate in finding old friends in new places who helped us getting established thus cutting the initial settling period down more and, I hope, there are times when I managed to be of some service to other newcomers. In my particular case life was not as difficult as it is for so many other wives as I was very lucky in never having been posted to a place where I did not speak the language or was unfamiliar with the culture. But I knew many others who did not have this advantage and did remarkable jobs in accomplishing what was expected of them, both by their husbands and families as well as by the agency. The husbands were not supposed to, and did not concern themselves with these logistical problems; they were supposed to and did concern themselves with their new duties at their new posts. All of which was the perfectly natural and accepted order of things, at least in those days. In our particular case as agency wives we could render a special service but providing home entertaining or whatever get-togethers - mostly on a social basis but at particular times even beyond that - in our homes which shielded the sensitive make-up of our work, be it the personnel involved should have stayed out of the public eye or be it that after-hours friendly get-togethers were helpful in establishing good working conditions among colleagues. All of which was preferably held to a minimum when it came to public places such as restaurants etc.

There were, of course, times when things ran smoothly and I had time to do other things. Then I usually worked part time at the office on a contract basis. This was beneficial both for me, as I could make a little money, and for the agency as they could utilize someone's time whose transportation and housing had to be paid for in any event. Under these circumstances I could, of course, not expect to get any work commensurate with my education since it was always on a temporary basis. It frankly never occurred to me to contemplate a career of my own. I was content to give all the logistical and moral, and perhaps also psychological support that was needed in this kind of nomadic life as to children that were regularly uprooted from their schools and their friends.

Of course, there were compensations for all of this. And they were tremendous. We loved travelling and meeting new people and getting to know a number of countries in a way no tourist could ever get to know them. But we did work hard and I feel that the wives certainly were essential in helping things run as smoothly as possible under sometimes adverse circumstances. And my particular experience may only be half the story in so many ways, as I never was exposed to a culture which was very foreign to me and I never had to put up with physical hardships as did those assigned to underdeveloped countries, f.i.

Now that for the first time in thirty years we are living in a permanent home of our own I realize more than ever before that it hasn't been uprooted over few years. I do feel that the U.S. taxpayer got his money's worth out of me and that I was in no considered an equal partner in the endeavour of my husband and I understand when he signed on with the CIA.

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December 14, 1981

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Upon reviewing my experiences as the wife of an Agency employee living overseas, I have found that the years we spent abroad had many serious and negative impacts on my life and my family.

I married an Agency employee in December 1951. At that time I was not an American citizen and I was employed in Washington by a foreign embassy. I was told then that I had to quit the position I had, otherwise my husband would have to resign from his job. Since there was no alternative, I terminated my contract with the embassy in January 1952.

My husband first post abroad was [redacted] We left on (b)(1) August 1952, I was about two months pregnant. I was not warned at that time (b)(3) of the danger or the complications which could arise when delivering a baby at high altitude, neither was I offered the alternative of having the baby at an other station at sea level, or even staying in Washington until the baby was born.

I was hospitalized in [redacted] on February 28, 1953. Nothing until (b)(1) then had indicated that the birth of the baby was going to be difficult. (b)(3) During the delivery complications arose endangering the baby's life and mine. A Caesarian operation [redacted] was out of the question, since it was not done in [redacted] because of high altitude. They delivered the baby by high (b)(1) forceps and during surgery cut the muscle of the rectum, severing the (b)(3) sphincter. The baby was born with a heart defect which was diagnosed one year later at John Hopkins Hospital as pulmonary hypertension.

After the delivery the control of defecation was non existent. For months I had to go to the doctor who tried to improve the condition by teaching me muscle exercises. This physical handicap called fecal incontinence caused me many embarrassing situations and psychological trauma. The condition improved over the years but never came back to normal and now I still do not have full control of the rectal muscles.

When the baby was about eight months old, after growing normally, he showed signs of sickness and his condition soon became extremely serious. As the local doctor seemed unable to deal with the problem, I took the plane to [redacted] and had the baby hospitalized at the American Hospital. He (b)(1) improved immediately and a few weeks later we took the plane back to [redacted] (b)(1) A few hours after we were in [redacted] the baby showed signs of cyanosis. The (b)(3) same day he was hospitalized again in [redacted] and put under an oxygen tent. (b)(1) At that time, my husband was recalled to Washington for consultation. After (b)(3) two weeks or so, the baby's condition was not improving and realizing that the altitude was definitely aggravating his sickness, I decided to move with him to sea-level. I took the baby to a sea level place near the border in [redacted] (b)(1) We stayed there for a few weeks until my husband received his transfer (b)(3) to [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1)

After consultation with the best heart specialist in [redacted] (b)(1) we were told that his condition was extremely serious, that only the United (b)(3) States would be able to make a complete diagnostic with a catheterization.

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A few weeks later I was taking a plane back to the States and the baby was hospitalized at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The cathetherization showed that the baby had pulmonary hypertension, it was terminal, there was no cure and no operation available to correct this heart defect. However, since we were at sea level, his condition greatly improved and he lived almost at a normal pace until he was fifteen, when he started showing some deterioration.

We were reassigned overseas in 1955 to Cuba for three years, then (b)(1) for two more years [redacted] until 1960. It was our last tour abroad with (b)(3) the family. Our son Eric mentioned previously died in 1971, he lived to (b)(3).

If I gave all those details it is to stress all the trauma experienced because of circumstances worsened, or in some ways caused, by the fact that we were overseas. As for other negative experiences abroad, I am sure I could find many more, but to me they were minimal. To relate one among those, an unpleasant experience happened during our stay [redacted]: I stayed home (b)(1) stranded for a few days, alone with my three small children in a remote (b)(3) suburb, with absolutely no Americans around us, during a bloody insurrection in the city, while my husband was travelling in the country. I believe that I have done the job I was expected to do when we were overseas, frequently entertaining and on different occasions helping my husband for specific requirements. I also believe that I went through those ordeals with courage and dignity without claiming any compensation or bothering the administration with my physical and emotional plight.

I started working for the Agency in 1970. My husband left our house in 1971, six months before our son died. Our divorce was final in 1974.

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This subject presents a dilemma for many of us who, for several reasons, might choose to remain comfortably silent - or, at the least, to maintain a discreet reticence.

However, in recent years, a situation has evolved - affecting a certain few loyal Americans - that asks for justice, for fair treatment, for a simple and basic act of gratitude in return for past service willingly offered to this country out of a sense of conviction, of dedication and of loyalty.

Ours, as David Attlee Phillips so aptly "wrote", is "A peculiar Service", and it calls for some unique adjustments in the way of life it demands from time to time. Without wishing to be dramatic, I might say that the truth for which CIA operations strive to search is very often stranger than fiction. And the methods... Well, let's assume that an operations officer must leave a message in an area where he would rather not risk being seen alone on a business errand. His wife goes along to lend an air of normalcy to the errand. The wife may merely wait in their car, but certainly at some risk. On other occasions, the operations officer's wife may meet 'contacts' in what seem to be purely social circumstances, yet in encountering these very people next evening - say, at the theatre - she is hastily advised before greeting them that she has never seen them before.

Normally, such sorties might seem adventurous if they were not potentially dangerous... but I need not go into the unusual biographies you have received - they speak eloquently for themselves. Personally, I can say that I found our own "cover" as

[redacted] very comfortable and easy to live with (b)(1) and so it was relatively no hard task at all to aid in whatever (b)(3) small way the aims of the missions to which my husband was assigned. It suffices to say that I support what has been presented to you from my own personal experience and from my deep conviction regarding the extent of the loyal service performed by CIA dependent spouses in support of CIA missions.

There is, we may say fairly, no "statute of limitations" on the benefits accruing to this nation from the many years of loyal service given by CIA wives who willingly put themselves in situations of possible danger while assisting their husbands in carrying out essential operational missions.

Let us not allow these dedicated people to be excluded from the benefits that should be theirs from a grateful country. We ask that the revised Foreign Service Act of 1991 be extended to cover former CIA spouses who made immeasurable contributions to our missions alone with their husbands during the participants years of creditable service. (Section '04 (4-6) (6) )

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